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THE REAL LINCOLN

FROM THE

Testimony of His Contemporaries

By CHARLES L. C. MINOR, M. A., LL. D.

Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged, 230 Pages.
(The first Edition was a Pamphlet of 54 Pages.)

The publishers desire to call attention to the second edition of Dr. Minor's remarkable contribution to the history of our country. Originally published as a pamphlet, the commendation it received and the fascination of the subject impelled its author to further and greater research into the official records of the War Department and publications by people of distinctly Northern sympathies, and the present volume is the result.

In explanation of the nature and aim of the book it may be said that, as an analytical examination of character, the book has few equals in biography, and a copy should be in every library, both public and private.

Full cloth, 12mo., 230 pages; price, \$1.25 postpaid.

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A MISTAKEN estimate of Abraham Lincoln has been spread abroad very widely, particularly in the Northern and Western States, and even in the South an editorial in a leading religious paper lately said as follows: "Our country has more than once been singularly fortunate in the moral character and the admirable personality of its popular heroes. Washington, *Lincoln* and Lee have been the type of character that it was safe to hold up to the admiration of their own age and the imitation of succeeding generations." In the North the pæan of praise that began with his death has grown to such extravagance that he has been called, "first of all that have walked the earth after the Nazarene," and a recent eulogist has asked us to give up aspirations for a heaven where Lincoln's presence is not assured.

To try to reawaken or to foster ill-will between the North and the South would be a useless, mischievous and most censurable task, and it will be seen this book has an exactly opposite purpose; but it is a duty to correct such misrepresentations as make claims for Lincoln entirely inconsistent with the grave defects that are conceded by the closest associates of his private life; by the most respectable and most eulogistic biographers and historians of his own day and of this day, at home and abroad, who have described his character and career, and equally inconsistent with the estimates of him by the greatest and closest associates of his public life, and by a very large part of the great Republican leaders of his own day. The fact that the evidence submitted comes from such witnesses, and such witnesses only, is the chief claim that this book has upon the interest and confidence of its readers, and attention is called to the extraordinary cogency of such evidence, and to the fact that not a word of testimony is offered out of the mass that might be secured from the eminent writers, speakers, statesmen, and soldiers who took the Southern side.

In an Appendix is given, in alphabetical order, the names of all the witnesses whose evidence is submitted. Reference is invited to that Appendix, as each witness is reached by the reader, and especially in every case where the reader finds it hard to believe the evidence, and it will be found that each is included in one of the above indicated classes.

Objection has been made to the first edition of this book that "Nothing is found from the author himself; only what other people have said or written." The author's purpose has been to submit the testimony of the classes above described, and to leave the reader to draw his own conclusions.

It has also been objected that this book gives only the bad side of Lincoln, and not the good. The author makes the acknowledgment that the largest measure of every excellence—intellectual, moral, and spiritual—has been claimed for Lincoln by most of the very witnesses whose testimony is quoted in this book. To reconcile the damaging concessions with the contradictory claims by the same witnesses was not considered his duty by the author of this book.

A third objection has been made, that this book gives the testimony of Lincoln's enemies. If so, who were Lincoln's friends? for every witness cited was on his side in the great conflict of '61-'65.

NOTE BY THE EDITORS (August, 1908).—Many of this generation, even in the South, are being taught that Lincoln was a true patriot, a man "of boundless benevolence and patriotism" (as the *Baltimore Sun* lately termed him), a second Washington, in fact.

If this is true, what must the rising generation think of those who fought him so stoutly, when he was "restoring the Union," (as he called it) in '61-'65!

This book shows (and upon the testimony of his own friends and partisans, unwilling witnesses) why we Confederates fought him; because he was making a new "Union" *by force*, in place of the one formed by Washington and the patriots of his day on the great principle of the Declaration: *Government based upon the consent of the governed*.

Observe, too, how clearly it is shown that Lincoln acted *against* the will of a *very large minority*, if not a *majority*, of the people of the non-seceding States, compelling them by martial law and his soldiers to submit to his policy of coercion and a *forced* Union.